GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3437
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2005
ALLEGED EMBEZZLEMENT SCAM IN POST OFFICES
Murmu Shri Hemlal

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts has taken up various jobs including acceptance of payment of telephone bills apart from distribution of letters recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is also aware of an alleged scam with regard to the embezzlement of amounts deposited for telephone bills and the amount sent through money orders in the post offices in the various States particularly in Jharkhand;

(d) if so, the number of such cases reported to the Union Government; and

(e) the effective steps taken by the Union Government to check such alleged embezzlement and scam in the post offices and to improve the functioning of the postal network?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Posts has taken up acceptance of payment of telephone bills, as also acceptance of other bills like electricity bills in some places.

(c) & (d) No such scam has come to the notice of the Department. However, sometimes, isolated cases are reported. During 2004-05, 241 cases of misappropriation in money orders have been detected in various parts of the country. However, no such case has been reported in Jharkhand Circle during the period.

(e) Instructions for following the prescribed procedure/rules by the staff have been issued. Besides, supervisory staff and various checking squads formed at different levels have also been instructed to keep watch.